(c) whether Government propose to do away with this reduction and restore the earlier wheat and rice quota; and

(d) if so, by when; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) and (b) Under the Targeted Public distribution System (TPDS) which was launched from June, 1997 the monthly quotas of rice and wheat to all the States/UTs has been fixed so as to provide foodgrains to the pupulation living below poverty line (BPL) @10 k.g per family per month at specially subsidised rates. The BPL pupulation in each State/UT has been worked out on the estimates of the Planning Commission based upon the methodology of 'Expert Group on estimation of proportion and number of poor' under the Chairmanship of Late Prof. Lakdawala. Transitory allocation of foodgrains for pupulation above Poverty Line (APL) is also being made which has been fixed on the basis of the past lifting of foodgrains in the States/Uts. On this basis the monthly quota of foodgrains fixed under TPDS for Assam is 55,300 tonnes which is lower than the pre-TPDS (May, 97) monthly allocation of 58,000 tonnes. In addition, however, 15,000 tonnes of rice and 10,000 tonnes of wheat per month is allotted to Assam as additional allocation under TPDS.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Under TPDS the BPL & APL quotas of foodgrains are fixed for all States/UTs, and revision only for Assam is not proposed. States/UTs are, however, allotted additional allocations of rice and wheat at Central Issue Prices applicable for APL families keeping in view the requests/needs of the States/UTs, and the availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool.

Recruitment and service rules for IGNCA employees

*452. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether proper Recruitment and Service rules have been framed for the employees of IGNCA:

(b) if not, the reasons for not doing so as the Centre has been in existence for over fourteen years;

(c) the exact time-frame by when these rules are likely to be framed and implemented; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MAHONAR JOSHI): (a) According to the imformation furnished by the IGNCA Recruitment Rules were framed for all posts except short-term posts relating to the UNDP Project. Further IGNCA follows the service rules of the Central Government.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Destruction and Smuggling of Forest Wealth

*453. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the large scale destruction and smuggling of forest wealth in Orissa and other States;

(b) whether such incidents are taking place even in the sanctuaries and national parks; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to curb such incidents and to preserve the valuable forest resources, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) As intimated by the State Government of Orissa it is not a fact that large scale

destruction and smuggling of forest wealth is going on in the state. However, the smuggling of forest produce is some times taking place with the active participation of some unscrupulous forest offenders at places.

As regards other states there is no information that large scale destruction and smuggling of forest wealth is gong on. The destructive activities of the forest smugglers 'inter alia' are also reflected in the State of Forest Report published by Forest Survey of India the 1997 assessment indicates a marginal decrease of 166 sq. km. in the forest cover of the State of Orissa. Report also reveals that 1,062 sq. km. of dense forest has changed to open forest. However, the area under mangroves has increased by 16 sq. km. At the National level, there has been a reduction of 5482 sq. km. of forests.

(b) Sporadic incidents of poaching and illicit fellings of timber and other forest produce do occur in the sanctuaries and national parks. The details of poaching incidents are enclosed in statement (*see* below).

(c) The State Government of Orissa has intimated that to curb such incidents, forest offences are booked under the relevant acts and confiscation of vehicles is initiated. Forest offence cases are being booked against the forest offenders and persons involved are arrested and are produced before the court for trial. The position of forest offence cases in Orissa for 1995-96 & 1996-97 is mentioned below:

Year	No. of forest offence cases booked	No. of offenders involved	Approximate value of forest produce seized
1995-96	61,496	57,027	Rs. 65,88,013.00
1996-97	37,745	36,217	Rs 34,10,103.00

Further, the State Government of Orissa has taken following steps to curb destruction of forest, wealth:—

(i) Mobile patrolling with the help of A.P.R. forces installed at different divisional headquarters are being done specially in the smuggling prone areas.

(ii) Some of the divisional headquarters, range headquarters and forester headquarters have been connected with V.H.F. net work to take immediate action in any forest offence.

(iii) Forest protection is being ensured by way of active participation of the local people through a scheme of Joint Forest Management. For this 1118 nos. of Vana Samrakhyan Samiti have been formed so far in the state who have been entrusted the work of protection over 1,08,699 ha. of forest land.

(iv) 249 nos. of forest Check Gates have been installed in different forest divisions of the state for effective control of movement of forest produce.

The Government of India has taken the following measures at the national level to check destruction and deforestation of forest wealth.

(i) The subject of forests was moved from the states list to concurrent list by the constitutional (42nd amendment) Act, 1976.

(ii) National Forest Policy, 1952 was revised in the year 1988. It envisages maintenance of environmental stability and restoration of ecological balance;

preservation of natural forests including biological diversity and genetic resources; association of local people in protection and development of forests; and to have a minimum of one-third of the total land area of the country under forests/tree cover through massive afforestation programme.

(iii) Afforestation programmes are undertaken by State Governments from their own resources as well as with financial assistance from Government of India. State Government have been advised to enhance the present level of forestry budget.

(iv) Externally Aided Projects are being implemented for preservation of forests and forest wealth.

(v) Indian Forest Act, 1927 and Wildilife (Protection) Act, 1972 are in force to check forest and wildlife offences.

(vi) There is a regulatory check exercised by the Government of India on diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes under the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. As a result, average annual rate of diversion has come down from around 1.43 million ha. to less than 26,000 ha.

(vii) Modern means of communications like wireless sets, fast speed vehicles etc. are provided to protection staff. Flying squads patrol sensitive areas to check illicit removal of forest produce.

(viii) Joint Forest Management has been introduced in the country to allow people's participation in the management of forest. This ministry has issued guidelines on 1.6.1990 for promoting involvement of village communities in the protection and regeneration of degraded forests. Untill now, 20 states have issued JFM resolutions and around 20,000 village forest protection committees are involved in the protection and regeneration of about 2 million ha. of degraded forest land.

(ix) Hunting of wild animals included in Schedules I to IV of the Wild life (Protection) Act, 1972, has been banned by law.

(x) Special measures for protection and conservation of tigers, elephants and rhinos and their habitat are being implemented.

(xi) A network of 447 wildlife sanctuaries and 84 National Parks covering 1,50,000 sq. km. has been set up for conservation of wild flora and fauna. Financial assistance is provided by the Central Government for development of national parks and sanctuaries on request from the State Government.

Statement

Number of poaching cases detected as per reports received

Sl. No.	Name of the state	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1.	Andhra Pradesh	50	NA	NA
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	01	01	NA
3.	Assam	48	42	33
4.	Bihar	04	02	02
5.	Goa	01	NA	NA

Sl. No.	Name of the state	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
6.	Haryana	281	588	NA
7.	Himachal Pradesh	04	13	02
8.	Karnataka	38	NA	NA
9.	*Kerala	35	NA	NA
10.	Maharashtra	102	NA	NA
11.	Madhya Pradesh	297	NA	NA
12.	Manipur	08	NIL	01
13.	Meghalaya	08	04	02
14.	Mizoram	26	08	04
15.	Nagaland	01	14	04
16.	Orissa	NA	NA	NA
17.	Punjab	247	250	NA
18.	Tamil Nadu	21	NA	NA
19.	Rajasthan	107	56	NA
20.	Sikkim	NIL	03	2
21.	Tripura	01	NIL	02
22.	Uttar Pradesh	07	02	05
23.	West Bengal	06	NIL	02
24.	Delhi	61	NIL	NA
25.	Pondichery	NIL	07	
26.	Gujarat	NA	49	43
	TOTAL	1360	1037	109

*as per calender year
NA: Not available

Ad-HOC Recruitment of Nurses in AIIMS

*454. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is uniform policy of ad-hoc recruitment of nurses in All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in their different units;

(b) if so, the details of the policy;

(c) whether the decision of the Supreme Court in 1980 is being followed by the AIIMS administration; and

(d) the reasons for non-regularisation of large number of ad-hoc nurses in AIIMS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) Ad-hoc appointments to the post of Sister Gr. II are being made in the Institute against vacant posts after inviting applications. Eligible candidates are interviewed by a Selection Committee under the Chairmanship of Medical Superintendent/ Chiefs of Centres concerned.

(c) All orders of the Supreme Court are to be complide with by the Institute. However, the Institute has reported that it has not received any directions from the Supreme Court regarding ad-hoc recruitment of Nurses.

(d) Vacancies to be filled up on regular basis are notified to Employment Exchange/advertised. The nurses working on ad-hoc basis in the Institute can also apply for such notified/advertised posts and are called for interview alongwith the candidates sponsored by the Employment Exchange, provided they are otherwise eligible as per the recruitment rules.